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ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
OF THE
ST. JUST URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
FOR THE YEAR
1956.



Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
St. Just.

B. H.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1956.

The Chairman of the Council (Councillor W.H. Rowe).

Chairman: Councillor Mrs. W. Holman.

Councillors: N. Barnes

J.B. Barnett

W.J. Cuddy

W.N. Harvey

J. Oats

James Rowe

W.T. Warren

A. Warren

K.R. Woolcock

J.E. Williams


OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health.

D.L. JOHNSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector

W.G.S. KNEEBONE, M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H. & H.



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ST. JUST URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council Offices,
St. Just.

To the Chairman and Members of the
St. Just Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

In presenting the Annual Report of my Department for the year 1956, I should like to record my appreciation of the way in which both members and staff helped me in getting to know my way about when I joined the Authority in March. The most urgent task at the outset was to co-ordinate my duties through a central health office and this has been done with some success, while preserving the fact that the four Local Sanitary Authorities exist as such independently of one another, and of the County Council. Working for five Authorities at one and the same time has its snags and anxious moments, but I think my first impression, that the advantages of this system outweigh the disadvantages, will be confirmed.

The epidemic of measles which began in late 1955 spread rapidly through the Lands End Area and of the total of 716 notifications, 42 were from this district. None of the more serious diseases were notified, although there were 2 cases of paralytic poliomyelitis in neighbouring districts.

Early in the year the Minister of Health announced a nation-wide vaccination scheme against poliomyelitis and its detailed organisation in this Area was delegated by the County Medical Officer to me, as Area Medical Officer - just another example of the overlap of interests where public health is concerned. Due to extremely limited supplies of vaccine, the scheme got away to a very modest start. On Ministry instructions registration was only offered to children born between 1947 and 1954, and then only children born in certain months were selected for immunisation. In the Lands End Area 1,098 children were registered but by the end of the year only 120 had completed a course of two injections.

In referring members to Mr. Kneebone's report in the pages that follow I draw the Council's special attention to its failure to maintain 100% meat inspection, for, despite the considerable increase in the number of carcasses inspected, it was quite impossible to keep pace with the large expansion in slaughtering - 5,696 animals as opposed to 1,119 in 1955. While a Local Authority is not, at present, compelled by law to inspect all meat passing through the slaughterhouses in their area, it is clearly a public health necessity and this departure from full inspection, while explainable up to a point, is to be deplored.

Another particularly unsatisfactory situation from the public health point of view is the fact that on the whole supplies of water in the district are not only inadequate, but prone to pollution and that even some Council-owned supplies cannot be relied upon to be wholesome at all times. This unsatisfactory state is bound to cause anxiety until the much-talked-of Drift Scheme comes into effective operation.

In contrast to the gloomy facts of inadequate meat inspection, unsatisfactory water supplies and slow progress in sewerage improvement schemes, the completion of 25 houses on the Lower Boscawell Estate is a matter of satisfaction and it is to be hoped that continued good progress be made in the provision of modern housing accommodation.

D.L. JOHNSON.

Medical Officer of Health.

ST. JUST.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

1956.

1. Estimated population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,980
2. Area	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,761 acres
3. Rateable value	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£23,700 (Mar. 1957).	
4. Product of ld. rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£91
5. No. of inhabited houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,432 (Mar.57).
6. Requisitioned houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
7. Houses built since 1945	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Council..46 Private..11	
8. Families on waiting list for houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	65
9. Live births	30 male				26 female				56 total
	Rate per 1,000 population				14.1				
10. Still births	1 male				0 female				1 total
	Rate per 1,000 population				17.5				
11. Total deaths	25 male				34 female				59 total
	Rate per 1,000 population				14.8				
12. Infant deaths	2 male				1 female				3 total
	Rate per 1,000 live births				53.6				
13. Maternal deaths	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	NIL

TABLE OF CAUSES OF DEATH

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis - respiratory	2	-	2
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	2	4	6
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-	1
Diabetes	1	1	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	3	1	4
Coronary disease, angina	3	5	8
Other heart disease	1	10	11
Other circulatory disease	1	1	2
Pneumonia	1	2	3
Bronchitis	1	-	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	-	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1	1
Congenital malformations	1	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	4	6
All other accidents	2	1	3
	25	34	59

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH

Heart disease	..	..	..	19
Cancer	..	..	..	11
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	..	..	..	4
Pneumonia	..	..	..	3

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year ending DECEMBER, 1956.

To the Chairman and Members of the
St. Just Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to present my fifth Annual Report on the Sanitary circumstances of the District.

The year under review saw the commencement of the long awaited piped water supply scheme for Pendeen and Boscaswell.

The Lower Boscaswell Housing Scheme was well under way with 25 houses completed. It is now hoped that the erection of new houses will continue until the demand for this standard of housing accommodation is satisfied.

An increase by more than 22% of beasts inspected in the three slaughterhouses added to the already heavy burden of duties borne by the department. Although much overtime had, in previous years, to be worked in order to effect one hundred per cent inspection of all meat in the slaughterhouses, the Council with the Ministerial consent, approved and licenced the substantial enlargement of one slaughterhouse. The increased slaughtering immediately added to the Council's responsibility as far as meat inspection duties were concerned. However, the Council knowing the heavy burden already borne through inspection of all meat for "home" consumption decided that "export" meat unless it was known to be or suspected of being diseased before leaving the slaughterhouse would have to be inspected in the "importing" Authority's Area. Such a decision is not in the interest of the meat consuming public at large.

Work on the preparation of the St. Just Town - Boscean - Tregeseal Sewerage Scheme was slow but still moving in the direction of realisation.

Rodent Control work continued and the Maintenance Treatment of sewers and refuse tips was carried out.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLIES

As Water Engineer I wish to make the following report:-

There are three separate piped supplies within the Urban District viz:-

St. Just Churchtown, Trewellard, Boscaswell.

The consumers, however, in St. Just Churchtown and Boscaswell cannot rely on wholesome supplies at all times while at Trewellard the supply although recently improved is inadequate in the summer months of July and August following a dry winter.

More than one third of the total population have to draw their water supply from wells or "chutes", in many cases open to gross pollution, untreated and a considerable distance from their houses.

The district has supplies of water which are inadequate and prone to pollution; it is apparent that there is a great need for an increased and wholesome water supply. We still look to the Drift Scheme to meet this most urgent need.

The Pendeen - Boscaswell Water Scheme commenced in mid-December and it is hoped that before another Annual Report is presented to you another two hundred homes will enjoy a piped, wholesome water supply.

No. of houses	-	(a) On mains supply	.. ..	717
		(b) With standpipe supply	..	140
		(c) Without supply	.. ..	621

The renewal of service pipes continued as the need arose.

SEWERAGE

Sewage disposal is principally by sea outfalls, one at Pen Nanven and one at Trewellard Zawn. The former serves approximately one half of St. Just Churchtown while the latter serves Trewellard, Fendeen and Boscaswell Village.

There is a small septic tank at Higher Bojewyan.

The Boscean outfall taking sewage from the eastern half of the Churchtown and consisting of a series of disused mine workings is overburdened and a statutory nuisance. Here crude sewage flows into the Nancherrow Stream.

Periodic heavy rainfall still surcharged the Churchtown Sewers, causing damage through flooding to the personal effects of certain dwellinghouse occupiers.

Eight years have now passed since the Council conceived the scheme to abate the nuisance at the Boscean outfall. Slow progress was made towards finalising the preparatory measures so that tenders could be invited for the work of installing the Tregeseal - Boscean - St. Just Town Sewerage Scheme. The delay is no doubt increasing year by year the capital and running costs of the project.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

						<u>Inspections</u>
<u>General</u>	Water supply	..	..	..	..	69
<u>Sanitation</u>	Drainage	..	..	..	..	22
	Complaints	..	..	..	..	68
	Sewage outfalls	..	..	..	..	11
<u>Housing</u>	Inspected for housing defects	..	..			19
<u>Miscellaneous</u>	Cinema etc.	..	..	..	..	1
<u>Inspections</u>	Public convenience	..	..	..	..	31
	Refuse tips	..	..	..	..	12
	Re rat destruction	..	..	..	..	17
	Visits to Council Houses	..	..	..	..	31
	District inspection	..	..	..	..	11

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED

<u>Dwelling</u>	Roof repaired	..	..	..	..	8
<u>Houses</u>	Chimneys repaired	..	..	..	..	10
	Walls repaired	..	..	..	..	7
	Windows repaired	..	..	..	..	12
	Houses provided with sinks	..	..			11
	Defective ceilings repaired	..	..			4
	Houses provided with bathrooms	..	..			7
	Defective W.C.'s repaired	..	..			7
	Houses provided with W.C.'s	..	..			12
	Drains repaired or reconstructed	..	..			6
	Houses provided with drainage	..	..			19
	Choked drains cleansed	..	..	..		14
	Cesspits cleansed	..	..	..		3
<u>Sewers</u>	Sewers cleansed or repaired	..	..			36
<u>Miscellaneous</u>	Statutory Notices issued	..	..			NIL
	Preliminary Notices served	..	..			11

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 AND 1948.

1. Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health
(including inspections made by Public Health Inspector)

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1.2.3.4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	5	5	-	-
(11) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	15	3	-	-
(111) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	NIL	NIL	-	-
Total	20	8	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instructed
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2.)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7.)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork).	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

RODENT CONTROL

The Council's Operator is part-time only, but survey of agricultural premises in accordance with the Act, was again undertaken in addition to maintenance treatments of the District's sewers and refuse disposal tip.

HOUSING

Very good progress was made on work of erection of 36 houses and 8 flats at Lower Boscaswell. 25 units of accommodation were completed during the year under review. As private enterprise does not seem to care or be able to shoulder, in part at least, the responsibility of providing decent, modern homes in an area saturated with substandard ones then the population has no alternative but to look to the Local Authority to provide the necessary accommodation so urgently needed. The number of people still on the Council's "waiting" list supports this view.

Housing work also included the maintenance of property in as reasonable a condition as possible.

3 acres of land at Carn Bosavern, St. Just, more than 2 acres of land at Trewellard, and space for a further 20 dwellings at Lower Boscaswell Site now await development.

The number of houses owned by the Council is 64.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Routine visits to slaughterhouses increased by over fifty per cent. 769 visits were made to Meat and other Food Shops including slaughterhouses and bakehouses. In connection with the inspection of food the following meat and other food stuffs were condemned:-

	T.	C.	lbs.
Beef	3	16	107
Canned meat	-	-	60
<hr/>			
Total	3	17	55
<hr/>			

Unsound foods, other than beef, were disposed of by burying at the Council's Tip.

THREE SLAUGHTERHOUSES

1956 - SUMMARY

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle Excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known) ²⁴⁹ / ₆	318	272	164	934	4,008	Nil
Number inspected	302	258	19	174	619	Nil
<u>All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticerci</u> Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	1	1	4	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	49	68	Nil	7	12	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	16.2%	26.3%	5.3%	4.6%	2.6%	Nil
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u> Whole carcasses condemned	1	4	Nil	Nil	3	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	27	44	1	Nil	23	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	9.3%	18.6%	5.3%	Nil	4.2%	Nil
<u>Cysticercosis</u> Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	7	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	7	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

5688

1372

Total number of visits to slaughterhouses for purpose of Meat Inspection - 749.

Adulteration, Sampling etc.

The County Council is responsible for carrying out duties with regard to sampling for adulteration of food stuffs and I am indebted to Mr. H. A. Rundle, Divisional Inspector, Weights and Measures Department, for the following report:-

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Details of samples of food stuffs procured 1956 & 1957.

St. Just Urban District

1956 - 57.

<u>ARTICLE SAMPLED</u>	<u>NUMBER TAKEN</u>	<u>GENUINE</u>	<u>SUB-STANDARD</u>
Butter	3	3	-
Christmas Pudding ..	1	1	-
Dripping	1	1	-
Gingerbreads	1	1	-
Grapefruit Squash ..	1	1	-
Ground Almonds	2	2	-
Ice Cream	4	4	-
Lard	2	2	-
Malt Vinegar	1	1	-
Milk	21	21	-
Milk Chocolate Coating	1	1	-
Mincemeat	2	2	-
Natural Lemon Juice ..	1	1	-
Pork Sausages	4	4	-
Shredded Beef Suet ..	1	1	-
Whisky	2	2	-
Totals ..	48	48	-

LICENCED HOUSES

The sanitary accommodation of these premises was kept under supervision and no complaints regarding their cleanliness were received.

CINEMA AND MUSIC HALLS.

These places for Public Entertainment were inspected. Reports were made to the Licensing Authority when necessary.

CAMPING SITES

There are two licenced camping sites in the area.

Neither gave any cause for complaint during the year.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCE

There is only one Public Convenience in the District.

This was cleaned daily and gave little cause for complaint.

Income

<u>1952-53.</u>	<u>1953-54.</u>	<u>1954-55.</u>	<u>1955-56.</u>	<u>1956-57.</u>
£19.3.2.	£19.13.7.	£20.11.7.	£31.4.2.	£31.6.4.

The revenue received for the year ending 31st March, 1957 was more than 50% over earlier years and the highest income yet recorded.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

(1st April, 1955 - 31st March, 1956)

During the year under review a weekly collection of house refuse was carried out over the whole district. A weekly collection of nightsoil was carried out where necessary throughout the district.

Refuse was disposed on one tip at Balleswidden, St. Just.

But few complaints were received concerning refuse collection and tipping.

I do not anticipate more than four years life for the present disposal site where dumping and supervision costs are almost negligible. When a new site is obtained for disposal there is little doubt that the annual cost of tipping will be increased very considerably compared with present costs.

The collection team consisted of 3 males using one 7 cubic yard Karrier Bantam Lorry.

The total cost of collection was:-

Net cost of collection (refuse and nightsoil)	.....£1584	0.	0.
Net cost of tipping refuse	.....£	5	0. 0.
Total cost	.....£1589	0.	0.

654 loads of refuse were disposed of at the tip making a total weight of 1160 tons collected.

Street Sweeping

Streets in the St. Just Churchtown only were cleansed by a part-time sweeper. The net cost of street sweeping was £183 0. 0.

I again appeal to the public to make greater use of the street litter bins provided at various points throughout the District. Clean and tidy streets can only be kept as such at all times by the public rather than by the Local Authority sweeper.

MORTUARY FACILITIES

The Mortuary provided in St. Just Churchtown was used also on occasions by the neighbouring Rural Authority.

EMPTYING OF CESSPOOLS.

When the need arose, privately owned cesspools, etc., and those for which the Council were responsible, were emptied by a cesspool emptier hired from St. Ives Borough Council.

In conclusion I would like to express my sincere appreciation of the support received from the Council during the year also to record my thanks to the staff for their loyalty and devotion to their work.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

W.G.STUART KNEEBONE.

Public Health Inspector.

APPENDIX A.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

(Corrected notifications)

1956

DISEASE	PENZANCE BOROUGH	ST. IVES BOROUGH	WEST PENWITH RURAL DISTRICT	ST. JUST URBAN DISTRICT
Scarlet fever	2	-	3	-
Whooping cough	2	-	1	-
Poliomyelitis - paralytic	-	1	1	-
Measles	210	101	363	42
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	6	1
Tuberculosis - Respiratory	12	5	8	4
Other	1	-	2	-
Puerperal pyrexia	3	-	-	-
Food poisoning	3	-	-	1
Erysipelas	-	-	1	-
Paratyphoid	-	-	-	-
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

1956

AREA	Number of children who completed a Full Course of Immunisation in 1956			Number of children receiving Refresher Doses
	Under 5	5 - 14	Total	
Penzance	213	33	246	298
St. Ives	72	17	89	296
West Penwith R.D.	192	19	211	297
St. Just U.D.	36	3	39	114

APPENDIX B.

TUBERCULOSIS

NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS FOR 1956.

Number on Register at 31.12.56. 1 - 5 5 - 15 15 - 20 20 - 25 25 - 35 35 - 45 45 - 65 Over 65 Total

PENZANCE																				
Pulmonary		M	93	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	(1)	2	-	1	(3)	-	(1)	7	(5)	
Non-pulmonary		F	63	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	(1)	-	-	5	(1)	

Non-pul		M	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
		F	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

WEST PORT																			
Pulmonary		M	52	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	(1)	1	-	4	(1)
Non-pul		F	51	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	4	-
		M	15	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
		F	15	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-

ST. JUST																			
Pulmonary		M	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	(3)	3	(3)
Non-pul		F	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
		M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

ST. IVES																			
Pulmonary		M	38	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	(1)	2	(1)
Non-pul		F	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	3	-

Non-pul		M	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		F	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

() - deaths Total notifications - 32 Total deaths - 11

